

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus, comprising:

a recording medium drive unit that receives a recording medium in which are recorded map data including a structure having map-related information ~~divided into units of a plurality of divisions into which a map is divided;~~ and a structure having management information for the map-related information ~~divided into units of the divisions;~~

an update data acquisition unit that obtains update data for the map-related information ~~provided in units of the individual divisions;~~ and

a processing unit that updates the map-related information recorded in the recording medium ~~in units of the individual divisions~~ by using the update data obtained by the update data acquisition unit and the management information, and executes processing of the map data based upon the map-related information recorded in the recording medium, the update data obtained by the update data acquisition unit and the management information, wherein:

a plurality of levels are defined, each in correspondence to one of a plurality of different scaling factors at which the map is rendered;

a plurality of sets of the map-related information are provided in correspondence to the plurality of levels; [[and]]

the map is divided into a plurality of divisions at each level, and each of the plurality of sets of map-related information, corresponding to a given level, is divided into units corresponding to the plurality of divisions into which the map is divided;

~~as the~~ divided map-related information corresponding to each of the units provided in units of the individual divisions comprises basic data, at least one type of map-related information available at all levels and extension data ~~another type of map-related information~~ available at one or more specific levels but not all levels, the basic data and the extension data being [[are]] provided separately from each other;

~~the one type of map-related information~~ the basic data is used to display the map at a display device;

~~the other type of map-related information~~ the extension data contains information used in route search; and

the processing unit executes processing of the map data by using the divided map-related information ~~in units of the individual divisions provided~~

~~separately with the one type of map-related information and the other type of map-related information comprising the basic data and the extension data.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the map is divided into a plurality of first ~~division-units~~ divisions, the first ~~division-units~~ divisions are each divided into a plurality of second ~~division-units~~ divisions, a number of the second ~~division-units~~ divisions is equal among the individual first ~~division-units~~ divisions, and the divisions into which the map is divided each corresponding to one of the second ~~division-units~~ divisions; and

the management information contains a set of management information related to the plurality of second ~~division-units~~ divisions, provided in correspondence to each of the first ~~division-units~~ divisions.

3. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:

the management information further contains management information related to the plurality of first ~~division-units~~ divisions.

4. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein:

the map is divided into a plurality of first ~~division-units~~ divisions at each level, the first ~~division-units~~ divisions are each divided into a plurality of second ~~division-units~~ divisions, the number of second ~~division-units~~ divisions is equal among the individual first ~~division-units~~ divisions, and the divisions into which the map is divided each corresponding to one of the second ~~division-units~~ divisions; and

the management information contains a set of management information related to the plurality of first ~~division-units~~ divisions provided in correspondence to each of the levels, and also contains a set of management information related to the plurality of second ~~division-units~~ divisions provided in correspondence to each of the first ~~division-units~~ divisions.

Claims 5 – 7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus, comprising:

a recording medium drive unit that receives a recording medium in which are recorded map data including a structure having map-related information ~~divided into units of a plurality of divisions into which a map is divided~~, and a structure having management information for the map-related information

~~divided into units of the divisions, the map-related information comprising data used in route search;~~

an update data acquisition unit that obtains update data for the map-related information ~~provided in units of the individual divisions;~~ and

a processing unit that updates the map-related information recorded in the recording medium ~~in units of the individual divisions~~ by using the update data obtained by the update data acquisition unit and the management information, and executes processing of the map data based upon the map-related information recorded in the recording medium, the update data obtained by the update data acquisition unit and the management information, wherein:

a plurality of levels are defined, each in correspondence to one of a plurality of different scaling factors at which the map is rendered;

a plurality of sets of the map-related information are provided in correspondence to the plurality of levels;

the map is divided into a plurality of divisions at each level, and each of the plurality of sets of map-related information, corresponding to a given level, is divided ~~[[in]] into units of the individual divisions corresponding to the plurality of divisions~~ into which the map is divided;

a connecting point, at which the map-related information corresponding to one of two divisions is correlated to the map-related information corresponding to the other division, is present at a geographically matching position within the

two divisions, the two divisions respectively belonging to levels different from each other; and

sets of information related to the connecting point contain common two-dimensional coordinate values indicating the position of the connecting point within the map in the map-related information corresponding to the two divisions;

two-dimensional coordinate values of the connecting point at a given level further contain two-dimensional coordinate values of the connecting point at a level at which the map is rendered in greater detail than the given level; and

the processing unit executes processing of the map data by using the two-dimensional coordinate values of the connecting point at a given level to which the two-dimensional coordinate values of the connecting point at a level at which the map is rendered in greater detail is attached.

9. (Previously Presented) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the two-dimensional coordinate values are values corresponding to latitudinal and longitudinal values.

10. (Previously Presented) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

the information related to the connecting point contains a parameter other than the two-dimensional coordinate values of the connecting point in addition to the two-dimensional coordinate values.

11. (Previously Presented) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

the parameter contains height information indicating a height of the connecting point.

12. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:

the parameter contains time information related to generation and update of ~~[[the]]~~ divided map-related information ~~provided in units of the individual divisions~~ corresponding to one of the units.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus, comprising:

a recording medium drive unit that receives a recording medium in which are recorded map data including a structure having map-related information

~~divided into units of a plurality of divisions into which a map is divided, and a structure having management information for the map-related information divided into units of the divisions;~~

an update data acquisition unit that obtains update data for the map-related information ~~provided in units of the individual divisions;~~ and

a processing unit that updates the map-related information recorded in the recording medium ~~in units of the individual divisions~~ by using the update data obtained by the update data acquisition unit and the management information, and executes processing of the map data based upon the map-related information recorded in the recording medium, the update data obtained by the update data acquisition unit and the management information, wherein:

the map-related information is divided into units corresponding to a plurality of divisions into which the map is divided;

[[the]] divided map-related information ~~provided in units of individual divisions corresponding to each of the units~~ is separated into ~~different types of map-related information~~ basic data and extension data to be individually managed, the basic data having higher priority than the extension data;

the basic data ~~map-related information having the highest priority among the different types of map-related information~~ is prepared in order not to exceed a predetermined upper data size limit; and

the processing unit executes processing of the map data by using the ~~divided~~ map-related information ~~provided in units of individual divisions~~ where the ~~basic data~~ map-related information ~~having the highest priority among the different types of map-related information~~ is prepared in order not to exceed the predetermined upper data size limit.

15. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein:

if a data size of the ~~basic data~~ map-related information ~~having the highest priority~~ exceeds the predetermined upper data size limit after update, at least map-related information corresponding to an excess beyond the predetermined upper data size limit, which results from the update, is prepared as map-related information ~~with lower priority relative to the highest priority~~ the extension data.

16. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein:

the ~~basic data~~ map-related information ~~with the highest priority~~ includes at least information used to display the map at a display device.

17. (Currently Amended) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein:

the basic data ~~map-related information with the highest priority~~ includes at least information used to display the map at a display device; and

the extension data ~~map-related information with the lower priority relative to the highest priority~~ includes information that enables display of a more detailed map at the display device, compared to the map displayed by using the basic data ~~map-related information with the highest priority~~.

Claims 18 – 19 (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the map data are map display data; and

the processing unit displays a map at a display unit by connecting the map data recorded in the recording medium with the update data obtained by the update data acquisition unit.

21. (Previously Presented) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the map data are route search data; and

the processing unit executes route search processing by connecting the map data recorded in the recording medium with the update data obtained by the update data acquisition unit.

Claims 22 – 31 (Canceled)

32. (New) A map data processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein:

divided map-related information corresponding to each of the units comprises basic data available at all levels and extension data available at one or more specific levels but not all levels, the basic data and the extension data being provided separately from each other;

the basic data is used to display the map at a display device; and

the extension data contains the data used in route search.